

Bridgwater May 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

My dear Mr. May

Last night brought us the welcome intelligence that Madison at head by its triumphant majority decided that a kidnapper could not remain an officer of the State of Mass. - Many a heart rejoices with your faithful band in this victory of Antislavery Sentiment, and our thankfulness to God for the new prospect will find utterance in many a grateful prayer. - It is so novel a sensation to see a victory gained by the Abolitionists in America, that we can hardly picture to ourselves the change that must have taken place; and we can at last believe that there is a prospect of ultimate success for your great undertaking. There is something thrilling in the pleasure with which I write a word of congratulation to you; and I can fancy how your heart must rejoice at the prospect that seems opening on your movement. To you who have led the way in the great enterprise, this victory must be a source of encouragement, and an incitement to further labour, I trust to none will it appear as an all-sufficient result; but no doubt many of your half and half friends will be too much inclined to be satisfied with what has been accomplished, and unwilling to make further efforts. With every congratulation that your friends I hope you will also receive an exhortation to persevere, for though you have apparently turned the corner, there is still a long and weary way before you, till the victory is gained.

I have had a most interesting time of late in Antislavery matters. - Mrs Chapman has been over here from Paris and kindled into us more than the Antislavery energies of our friends. She attended an evoking meeting in Bridgwater, and the friends who gathered to meet her, spent a most useful and deeply instructive meeting. - In conversation she unfolded the cause of the stamp held which slave feeling has upon the chief leaders of your theological and commercial world; she told, as well she can, of the persecutions which the faithful friends of the slave have to endure, she related how, how cheering was the progress of Antislavery feeling among all classes in France, how all men of all opinions of no opinions to her joined to help our cause; and finally she told us how much the movement was aided by our working on this side of the Atlantic. - You who know Mr Chapman will be able to judge how much interesting & valuable information she could give on all these topics, and how usefully an evening could be spent in discussing the details of the subjects mentioned. - But I must say that I was very much gratified by the intelligent interest displayed by members of our Society, and how great hopes that ~~we~~ a deeper feeling than mere passing sympathy animates them in their work. Mr Chapman herself expressed herself much gratified by the work of our Society. She had had of meeting the Bridgwater friends. - The day after was the regular half-yearly meeting of our Western Christian Union, ~~and~~ which was held at Bristol: beside the regular business, we passed a resolution congratulating the heroes of the Boston agitation on their triumphant discharge by the District Court of Massachusetts. You will no doubt receive a copy of the Inquirer which contains a report of this meeting & will see the terms of the resolution which was carried: but there was one



feature of Remonding that the report was over-mentioned, but which you should know. When the resolution was passed, the whole meeting rose and cheered most enthusiastically. It did me good to see so hearty a feeling on the right side of so important a question.

I was rather sorry to see the tone which was adopted by the Standard in speaking of Rogers's remarks on slavery. You must have said that in several letters to the Times, he has spoken with hearty condemnation of slavery & pointed it out as the curse which prevents the United States taking the stand they should do among the nations of the world. - If he did act with too great subservience to the slaveholding oligarchy, whilst on his visit to your country and womanery, his lamentable shortcomings then, yet we should all joyfully welcome his amended conduct, and remember his former failings only to give us greater joy over his improved sentiments. There is greater joy over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just men that need no repentance. And when we remember that Rogers

offered much for liberty, and only pretence obscured his glory, we should indeed rejoice that the cloud has passed away & he again shines forth bright & undimmed. We might never forget that it is to the Hungarian party of which he is the acknowledged leader, that the Hungarian serfs owe their freedom, that he was the advocate of freedom long before the revolution of 1848, that he was imprisoned for his love of liberty, and is now an emblem of fidelity to her sacred cause. It is not kind to speak of his change as too late. It cannot be too late. The sinner dying on the cross was pardoned. shall not the living man, who has still the power of speaking words of fire be welcomed among those who are banded together to bring about the reign of freedom and humanity among the children of men? I hope the Standard will speak of him in other terms and give him the welcome that he deserves.

I wish to write you a few hurried lines before I leave home, as I do not know whether I shall find an opportunity of sending you any letters from Germany and France, for which countries I leave here on Monday next. If I can manage I will do a little G. S. work abroad: perhaps I shall be allowed to lecture there, and - I can speak German fluently, I may be able to amuse



a little feeling, where nothing is as yet known of American aided Canada. I  
doubted even if such a place can be found since the appearance of Uncle Tom.  
My companions beside my wife will be Father Pitkin & Francis Rich. & you.  
See to let be in good company. - We go together as far as Bingen on the Rhine.  
Then the two leave me & go on to Switzerland, while I remain at a watering  
place called Kreuznach to use the springs there. I have been out of health  
more or less for nearly two years past and hope to find relief at last.

If you can find time to write to me, do so, my friends in Bridgewater  
will know whether to direct, but as usual I can only say if there is  
know in post and work, do not think of me. I always fancy you are  
employed, and should not like to inconvenience you by asking for replies  
to my rambling epistles.

Indeed I have to thank you for your valuable parcel. The papers and  
sermons are very interesting. I am circulating a good many of them  
& think they cannot fail to do good.

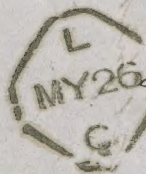
And now with my most sincere and earnest protest for you  
all true Anti-Slavery Labourers

I remain  
most faithfully yours  
Alfred Stearns

Rev. S. May junr



Recd. June 14. 1865.  
Ans. " 19. "



Leicester  
Mass.

United States of America

